

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6515

The Honorable Nydia Velázquez
Chairwoman
Committee on Small Business
2361 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

February 4, 2021

Dear Madam Chairwoman:

As the 117th Congress gets underway, we have an unprecedented opportunity to continue working in a bipartisan manner to address the challenges facing America's small businesses. We both know all too well that small businesses, entrepreneurs, and startups all over the country, from Missouri to New York and from coast to coast, are suffering economic hardships through no fault of their own. Their failure is unacceptable, and their decline must be reversed. America's job creators and innovators are tired of the endless shutdowns. They are ready for recovery; for the freedom to turn on their lights and open their doors. They are ready for renewed economic independence.

This Committee has a historic opportunity to help solve these problems using bipartisan solutions that share widespread support. In order to further assist America's Main Street, I am proposing several critical topics for hearings that the Committee could hold at the beginning of the 117th Congress. While this list is not exhaustive, I believe it is an appropriate starting point for our Committee's focus. The sooner we can address these crucial issues facing America's small businesses, the quicker we can get business owners and their employees back to work and fully engaging in the economy again. Given the outsized role small businesses have on our economy, I am proposing the following hearing topics:

- The efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), especially considering the reopening after almost six months of dormancy
- The utilization and the oversight of the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL) and the EIDL Advance Grant
- The effect of state and local shutdowns on small businesses
- The constraints of regulatory burdens and bureaucratic red tape that prevent small businesses from creating jobs and expanding in their communities
- The Regulatory Flexibility Act as a tool to ensure small businesses are not unduly burdened by new federal government regulations

- The oversight of federal government programs to protect American taxpayer dollars from waste, fraud, and abuse
- The federal resources available to small businesses to grow, expand, and create jobs
- The ability of small businesses to access capital
- The role of entrepreneurs and startups as they innovate and produce the next great American product and service
- The state of the federal contracting ecosystem for small businesses
- The resources available to rural small businesses and small farmers, including access to capital and rural broadband
- The benefits of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act for small businesses
- The devastating impact of cyberattacks on small businesses

By prioritizing and putting America's small businesses first, we can ensure they remain a dynamic factor in the American economy. From mom and pop shops that occupy the corner store to high-tech corridors, small businesses have the ability to be transformative. A comprehensive Congressional hearing schedule including the hearings I have proposed above will provide Members of Congress with the ability to measure the small business ecosystem and provide bipartisan solutions moving forward.

I look forward to working with you, and our Committee colleagues, on these and other important issues throughout the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blaine Luetkemeyer", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Blaine Luetkemeyer
Ranking Member